

**What is Claimed:**

1. In a wireless communication system, the communication system providing communication service to a mobile station, wherein the mobile station monitors for transmission from a base station via a communication resource based on an operating slot cycle index corresponding to an operating slot cycle, a method for enabling a preferred slot cycle, the method comprising:

receiving control information associated with slot cycles operable by the base station;

adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to a trigger event, the preferred slot cycle index corresponding to a preferred slot cycle; and

transmitting the preferred slot cycle index to the base station so that the mobile station is in communication with the base station via the communication resource during a slot, the slot reoccurring based on the preferred slot cycle,

wherein the preferred slot cycle is one of the slot cycles operable by the base station.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index comprises adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index being greater than the operating slot cycle index such that the preferred slot cycle is longer than the operating slot cycle.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index comprises adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index being less than the operating slot cycle index such that the preferred slot cycle is shorter than the operating slot cycle.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to a trigger event comprises adjusting the operating slot cycle index to the preferred slot cycle index in response to a user-selectable input, a voice input, and an operating characteristic associated with the mobile station.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to a trigger event comprises adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to the mobile station being at a battery power threshold.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to a trigger event comprises adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to the mobile station being idle.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to a trigger event comprises adjusting the operating slot cycle index to a slot number including one of zero (0), one

(1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6) and seven (7) in response to a trigger event.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the preferred slot cycle index to the base station such that the mobile station is in communication with the base station via the communication resource during a slot comprises transmitting the preferred slot cycle index to the base station so that the mobile station is in communication with the base station via a paging channel during a slot.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the preferred slot cycle index to the base station such that the base station is in communication with the mobile station during a slot comprises transmitting the preferred slot cycle index to the base station via a registration so that the base station is in communication with the mobile station via the communication resource during a slot.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the preferred slot cycle index to the base station such that the base station is in communication with the mobile station during a slot comprises transmitting the preferred slot cycle index to the base station via an access channel so that the base station is in communication with the mobile station during a slot.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication system comprises a code division multiple access (CDMA) based communication system.

12. In a wireless communication system, the communication system providing communication service to a mobile station, wherein the mobile station monitors for transmission from a base station via a communication resource based on an operating slot cycle index corresponding to an operating slot cycle, and wherein the mobile station is operable to enable a preferred slot cycle, the mobile station comprising:

- a user input device;
- a receiving unit adapted to receive control information associated with slot cycles operable by the base station;
- a controller operatively coupled to the user input device and the receiving unit, the controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to the processor, and the controller being programmed to adjust the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to a trigger event, wherein the preferred slot cycle index corresponds to a preferred slot cycle; and
- a transmitting unit coupled to the controller, the transmitting unit being operable to transmit the preferred slot cycle index to the base station so that the mobile station is in communication with the base station via the communication resource during a slot, the slot reoccurring based on the preferred slot cycle,

wherein the preferred slot cycle is one of the slot cycles operable by the base station.

13. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the preferred slot cycle index comprises a preferred slot cycle index greater than the operating slot cycle index such that the preferred slot cycle is longer than the operating slot cycle.

14. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the preferred slot cycle index comprises a preferred slot cycle index less than the operating slot cycle index such that the preferred slot cycle is shorter than the operating slot cycle.

15. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the preferred slot cycle index comprises a preferred slot cycle index of a slot number including one of zero (0), one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6) and seven (7).

16. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the user-input device comprises a numeric keypad, an alphanumeric keypad, a touch-sensitive display, and a microphone.

17. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the trigger event comprises one of a user-selectable input, a voice input, and an operating characteristic associated with the mobile station.

18. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the trigger event comprises the mobile station being at a battery power threshold.

19. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the trigger event comprises the mobile station being idle.

20. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the communication resource comprises a paging channel.

21. The mobile station of claim 12, wherein the mobile station operates in accordance with a code division multiple access (CDMA) based communication protocol.

22. In a wireless communication system, the communication system for providing communication service for a mobile station, wherein the mobile station monitors for transmission from a base station via a communication resource based on an operating slot cycle index corresponding to an operating slot cycle, and wherein a processor operates in accordance with a computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for enabling a preferred slot cycle, the computer program comprising:

a first routine that directs the processor to receive control information associated with slot cycles operable by the base station;

a second routine that directs the processor to adjust the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to a trigger event, a preferred slot cycle index, the preferred slot cycle index corresponding to a preferred slot cycle; and

a third routine that directs the processor to transmit the preferred slot cycle index to the base station so that the mobile station is in communication with the base station during a slot, the slot reoccurring based on the preferred slot cycle,

wherein the preferred slot cycle is one of the slot cycles operable by the base station.

23. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to adjust the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index being greater than the operating slot cycle index such that the preferred slot cycle is longer than the operating slot cycle.

24. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to adjust the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index being less than the operating slot cycle index such that the preferred slot cycle is shorter than the operating slot cycle.

25. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to adjust the operating slot cycle index to the preferred slot cycle index in response to a user-selectable input, a voice input, and an operating characteristic associated with the mobile station.

26. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to adjust the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to the mobile station being at a battery power threshold.

27. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to adjust the operating slot cycle index to a preferred slot cycle index in response to the mobile station being idle.

28. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the second routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to adjust the operating slot cycle index to a slot number including one of zero (0), one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6) and seven (7) in response to a trigger event.

29. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the third routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to transmit the preferred slot cycle index to the base station so that the mobile station is in communication with the base station via a paging channel during a slot.

30. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the third routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to transmit the preferred slot cycle index to the base station via a registration so that the base station is in communication with the mobile station via the communication resource during a slot.

31. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the third routine comprises a routine that directs the processor to transmit the preferred slot cycle index to the base station via an access channel so that the base station is in communication with the mobile station via the communication resource during a slot.

32. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the computer program operates in accordance with a code division multiple access (CDMA) based communication protocol.

33. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the medium is one of paper, a programmable gate array, application specific integrated circuit, erasable programmable read only memory, read only memory, random access memory, magnetic media, and optical media.